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WEBSTER/KASTENMEIER
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P Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said the Central Intelligence Agency has asked for his help in improving its image.

But the Wisconsin Democrat says this is a difficult assignment because the CIA is so secretive.

A Kastenmeier said he was invited to a session with Acting Director Robert Gates earlier in the week and there was an "open discussion with the entire hierarchy of the CIA."

The talks were to have been held Monday, but because 1,500 protesters blocked the agency's driveway, the talks were held Tuesday.

As a longtime liberal, Kastenmeier said he has been more in tune politically with the protesters than with the CIA hierarchy. It was the first time he could recall that a single congressman had been dined there.

"They were concerned that often the agency is accused of things in the press which are untrue. They say that we in Congress should stick up for them," Kastenmeier said.

"But much of the information that we receive is classified or confidential. If we support them, even if we have the information, we'd be charged with leaking," Kastenmeier said.